STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C. JUNE 15, 1948 SS-67

Crop Prospects, Average Or Better

June 1 crop prospects appeared average or better in all regions...North Atlantic and North Central States, uniformly good, except Nebraska and Kansas; South Atlantic, above average, except Georgia and Florida; South Central, average prospects held down by only poor to fair conditions in Oklahoma and Texas; in the West, despite late season, prospects are average, varying from fair in New Mexico to very good in Montana and the Pacific Northwest.

Corn, Off To A Good Start

Corn has made a good start--the most encouraging in several seasons. By June 1, practically all corn had been planted in the Corn Belt and, for the country as a whole, little was left to be planted. By that date last year, almost a fourth had not been planted. Corn Belt was planted under favorable conditions. Stands are average, fields clean...ample moisture in eastern part of the Belt; a little dry west of the Mississippi, especially in Kansas and Nebraska.

Wheat May Total 1.2 Billion Bushels

Wheat prospects improved during the past month despite some deterioration in parts of the Southwest. All wheat June 1 was forecast at 1.2 billion bushels. Would be second largest crop on record and one-fourth larger than average. Winter wheat is expected to total 877.2 million bushels; spring wheat, 315.2 million, which would be the largest since '28.

Rye Estimates Down A Little

The estimated production of rye, at 24.3 million bushels, is 6 percent below the May 1 forecast. New estimate compares with 25.9 million year ago and the 10-year average of 37.4 million bushels. The four leading States (N.D., S.D., Minn., Neb.) show a 12 percent reduction in the estimate from last month, because of dry weather. Rye crop showed improvement in some other areas, including Oklahoma and Texas.

Rye stocks on farms, 2.3 million bushels compared with 0.8 million year ago and 9.7 million '37-46 average.

Barley Estimates Higher Than Last Year

Barley crop, estimated at 290.3 million bushels, is 4 percent larger than the 279.2 million produced last year but 3 percent smaller than 10-year average. Stocks on farms, 35.5 million bushels, compare with nearly 37 million year ago and 55.4 million for the 10-year average.

More Oats Than Last Year

The 1.4 billion bushels of oats forecast is 12 percent more than last year's crop of 1.2 billion bushels. It is also 10 percent more than the 10-year average. Prospects are good in Minnesota and Wisconsin. In Iowa, and some areas south and west of Iowa, effects of dry weather were seen. In eastern North Central States, seeding was completed more nearly normal than in '47. The North Central States, with three-fourths of the Nation's oats acreage, seem to have carried out their plans to increase acreage by 11 percent. Increased use of disease-resistant, Clinton variety, seed is reported.

Above Average Hay Condition

Hay condition is 1 point better than 10-year average. Looks now like a total crop of 98-1/4 million tons. This compares with 102-1/2 million tons harvested last year and 97-1/2 million '37-46 average.

Pastures Generally Sufficient

For the country as a whole, pastures are about the same as the 10-year average but not quite so good as a year ago. Green feed was sufficient for current needs in most places. But in dry areas--over much of the Central and Western Corn Belt--reserve supplies were less plentiful than usual at this time of the year. Late May and early June rains improved pasture prospects in the Southeast and Great Plains.

Less Tight Feed Situation This Fall

There is a better growing season so far this year for feed grains. Larger supplies are expected for '48-49 than for the present '47-48 feeding season. At '42-46 average yields, production of feed grains would be 20 million tons larger than last year's 96 million tons. With less grain expected to be carried over than last year, total supply for the coming feeding season would be about 110 million tons, up 14 million tons from last year. Fewer animals are to be fed. Supplies per animal of both feed concentrates and hay could reach record highs in the '48-49 season. Livestock numbers have been declining since '44... probably will continue downward balance of this year and into next.

Crop Outlook Points to Lower Feed Prices

Based on present outlook for feed crops, at least the usual decline in oats and barley prices is expected this summer, while corn probably will drop more than usual this fall. In recent weeks, feed grain prices have been about one-fourth higher than last year...unusually high in relation to prices of by-product feeds, especially the high proteins. If the good growing season keeps up, prices of feed grains, and possibly of other feeds, probably will be much lower in '48-49 relative to prices of livestock and livestock products than now.

Wheat fed in the U. S. during the current wheat marketing year is expected to be around 200 million bushels, a little more than was fed in '46-47.

Food Supplies To Increase

Food is expected to become more plentiful during the late spring and summer months, as supplies of many foods increase seasonally. But, as compared with same period last year, market supplies of some foods are likely to be smaller: such as meats, turkey, most manufactured dairy products, and fats and oils other than lard. Retail food prices in the next few months will decline seasonally but probably will remain above last year's level.

Foods In Plentiful Supply In June

Expected in relatively plentiful supply this month, in most of U. S., are fresh cauliflower, celery, potatoes and spinach; fresh citrus; canned peas, pumpkin, sweetpotatoes, tomato products, apples and apple products, citrus juices, grapefruit segments and fresh prunes; dried prunes, raisins, peaches and figs; fruit spreads, honey, and peanut butter; fresh and frozen fish and eggs.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	April 15 1948	May 15 1948	May 15 1948
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.29	2.22	2.21
Corn, bu. ....dol.	2.19	2.16	1.60
Peanuts, lb. .... ct.	10.2	11.4	12.0
Cotton, lb. .... ct.	34.10	35.27	31.00
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	2.09	1.96	1.86
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	20.60	19.60	18.20
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	21.90	23.70	13.60
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	24.10	25.30	16.90
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	21.10	23.40	14.70
Butterfat, lb. .... ct.	84.6	83.6	1/ 62.3
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. ....dol.	2/ 4.69	4.59	1/ 3.60
Chickens, live, lb. .... ct.	28.0	28.5	28.5
Eggs, doz. .... ct.	42.6	41.5	1/ 46.3

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.
2/ Revised.

10 Percent Less Meat

Meat production in '48 is expected to be about 10 percent less than the 23.4 billion pounds produced last year. This expected total will be smallest since '41, but larger than in any year before that. Less of each class of meat is expected in '48 than in '47 but largest reduction will be in beef.

Milk Per Cow All-time High But Fewer Cows Cut Production

Cows gave more milk per cow in May than ever before in that month. But number of milk cows was lowest in about 9 years and total production was down for the month. The 11.8 billion pounds produced was smallest for the month since '41. However, it was 3 percent above 10-year average for the month. Milk production per day, per capita averaged 2.61 pounds, lowest for the month since '35.

Egg Production Off A Little

Hens laid nearly 6 billion eggs in May. This was 7 percent above the 10-year average but was a little less than in May last year...fewer layers partially offset by a 1 percent increase in the rate of lay. Eggs produced first 5 months totaled almost 27.5 billion eggs...2 percent less than for this period last year ...13 percent above average.

Hatcheries Hatch Fewer Chicks Light Demand For Replacement

Hatcheries hatched 12 percent fewer chicks last month than in May last year. Broiler chicks were in strong demand but demand for chicks to replace laying flocks was still down from year ago. Output, first 5 months of this year, was 847,949,000 chicks...same period last year, 970,503,000.

Big Demand For Turkey Poults

Reports indicate 18 percent fewer turkey poults were hatched during March, April and May than during same months last year. Demand for poults was very strong during May, and hatcheries are producing as many poults in June as egg supply will permit. Output in May was down about 14 percent from year earlier. But hatcheries reporting said they had 82 percent more turkey eggs in incubators June 1 than on same date last year.

Late Spring Onions And Tomatoes, Plentiful

Late spring supplies of onions and tomatoes are expected to be right much above last year and average...cabbage, up a little but below average...most others down somewhat but above average, except for snap beans and green peas. Spring beets, cantaloups, carrots, and lettuce are much below '47. Acreage summer truck is down about one-tenth from last year but near-average.

For Processing, Down From Last Year

Truck for processing is expected to be down from last year, except green lima beans for canning and freezing and beets for canning. Aggregate '48 acreage for processing may be 5 percent less than in '47, though 5 percent above average. Wet fields hindered planting.

A Few More Early Potatoes Than Last Year

Production of commercial early Irish potatoes is indicated at 71 million bushels. This compares with about 66 million bushels of these early potatoes last year. Yield is estimated at 223 bushels per acre on 318,400 acres compared with a yield of 216 bushels per acre last year on 306,700 acres. Average yield '37-46, was 161 bushels on 347,160 acres. (Estimate of total potato crop will be made in July.)

Unusually heavy supplies of potatoes will come from California, North Carolina and Virginia during June...will start moving also from Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee...some, late in the month, from Kansas and Missouri.

Apple And Peach Crops Off From '47.

Apple crop is expected to be somewhat smaller than both last year and average. Poor pollination weather reduced prospects, especially in Central States. Peach crop, U. S., forecast at 68.3 million bushels, will be 17 percent less than last year but 2 percent above average. The crop in the South, forecast last month at 15 million bushels, is now estimated at 14.2 million.

Fewer Pears Than Last Year

Pears are estimated at 27.6 million bushels, 22 percent below last year's record large crop and 9 percent below average. On the Pacific Coast which produces four-fifths of U. S. pears, production is expected to be down about 23 percent from last year, but only 2 percent below average.

Prices Received Down...Paid, Up

Prices received by farmers in May declined 2 index points to 289. Index in April was 291. All-time high reached in January was 307. Average prices were lower in May than in April for most crops. Cotton and the oil-bearing crops were the main exceptions. Beef cattle prices advanced to $23.70, a new all-time high. But prices received by farmers for hogs dropped to $19.60, lowest since the end of price controls. Decreases in dairy products prices were smaller than expected seasonally. Egg prices were lower...wool prices, up sharply--especially in the fine wool States. Crops in the aggregate took a 9-point drop while livestock and products made a 5-point rise.

Prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, rose 1 index point--from 249 in April to 250 in May. This is only 1 point below the all-time high reached in January. Farmers paid more for clothing, farm machinery and food items. Lumber and other building material, also, continued to rise.

Farmers Get $23.10 Ton For Baled Hay

Published for the first time in BAE's "Agricultural Prices" is a set of prices received by farmers in the several States and U. S. for baled hay and loose hay. U. S. average price in May for all hay baled was $23.10 ton; loose hay, $18.30.

Farm Workers Increase 9 Percent

The 11,287,000 persons at work on farms on June 1 was 9 percent more than last month and nearly as many as a year ago when the total was 11,394,000. The slight decrease from a year ago is in family workers, number of hired workers being about the same as a year ago.

Total civilian employment in May (census) 58.7 million, compares with 58.3 million in April, 58.3 million in May '47, and 54.8 million May 2 years ago.

Business Continues Active...Flow of Consumer Income, At High Level

The domestic economy continues near record high levels. Steel output has largely recovered from the effects of reduced coal supplies. The flow of consumer income available for spending is greater than ever before as a result of high employment, advancing wage rates and the recent reduction in income taxes.

U. S. merchandise exports, particularly agricultural products, have declined from the '47 record level. The value of agricultural exports in the first quarter of this year was lower than in any quarter of last year and about 13 percent below last year's quarterly average. The European Recovery Program will tend to support agricultural exports during the remainder of '48 but may not maintain them at first quarter levels.

Farmers And The "Long Run"

American farmers can expect fairly good incomes during the next quarter century if the Nations work out a stable peace. This is the conclusion of a study made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for the House Committee on Agriculture. The study analyzes the important trends and factors that will affect farming during the next generation. A condensed report of the study appears in BAE's "Agricultural Situation" for June.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	May 1948
Prices received by farmers	1910-14=100	289
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14=100	250
Parity ratio	1910-14=100	116
Wholesale prices of food	1910-14=100	277
Retail prices of food	1910-14=100	1/ 268
Farm wage rates	1910-14=100	1/ 412
Weekly factory earnings	1910-14=100	2/ 464
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	**Jan.-May 1947**	**Jan.-May 1948**
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	49.7	47.7
Eggs, (Bil.)	28.0	27.4
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 2514	3/ 2118
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 244	3/ 219
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	3/ 3224	3/ 3031
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 6219	3/ 5580

1/ April figure.
2/ Factory payroll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. March figure.
3/ January-April.